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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FOR THE YEAR

1954



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OF THE

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Incorporated under Nigerian Ordinance No. 39 of 1946)

FOR THE YEAR

1954.

Head Office :

BOTA, VICTORIA.

CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM TRUSTEESHIP.

MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION :

A. H. YOUNG, C.B.E., *Chairman.*

W. J. C. RICHARDS.

E. K. MARTIN, M.H.A.

J. FINDLAY.

W. L. BLOOMFIELD, A.C.A.

S. T. MUNA, M.H.A.

H. B. COX.

GALEGA II, FON OF BALI.

N. N. MBILE.

Secretary :

A. C. WOOD, M.A.

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Annual Report, 1954	3
I. General	3
II. Membership	3
III. Meetings	4
IV. Corporation Lands	4
V. Agricultural Activities	4
VI. Production	9
VII. Joint Activities with Messrs. Elders & Fyffes Ltd. ..	9
VIII. Engineering	10
A. Civil	10
B. Mechanical Transport	12
C. Electrical Engineering	12
IX. Marine and Shipping	13
Summary of Trade at Bota and Tiko Ports 1948-1954	14
X. Staff and Labour	14
XI. Welfare and Social Services	16
XII. Education	18
XIII. Medical and Health Services	20
Summary of Treatments	21
XIV. Finance	23
XV. Accounts for the year 1954	23
2. Analysis of Employees by Tribes as at 31st December, 1954 ..	26
3. Summary of Cultivated Acreage	27
4. Accounts, 1954	28

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FOR THE YEAR 1954.

I. General.

1954 saw the continuation of the expansion of the Corporation's activities both in the development of the plantations and in the ancillary services.

The banana plantations, from which the Corporation derives the major part of its revenue, again suffered considerable damage from windstorms, and the losses amounted to 1,750,640 plants. Panama disease claimed a further 932,717 plants, which is a very disturbing increase of over 48 per cent. over 1953, but the effective control of Cigar End disease reduced the losses from 738,000 stems in 1953 to 238,055 stems. The revenue from bananas was also seriously affected by the Dock Strike and by the reduction in October of the boat price.

The production of palm produce again shows a small increase over the 1953 figures, but although the quantity of rubber produced shows a decrease the quality again was improved.

Agricultural developments included the planting of 2,834 acres of bananas, and preparations were made for a further 1,220 acres new planting and 805 acres replanting. 1,228 acres of oil palms were planted during the year, and a programme of planting for 1955 of approximately 900 acres replanting and 450 acres new planting was in hand. As regards rubber, a total of 1,213 acres was developed under new and replanting, whilst a further 690 acres were being prepared for new planting in 1955, together with 607 acres replanting.

The reconstruction of the Wharf at Tiko was completed in September. Other principal capital works projects included an Industrial Centre at Bota and the continuation of the Staff and Labour Housing programme, and a start was made on the construction of a new General Office at Bota.

II. Membership.

During the year The Hon. Mallam Ahmadu, M.H.R., Lamdo Mubi, resigned his appointment, and the term of office of Dr. E. M. L. Endeley,

M.H.A., lapsed on 15th September, 1954. As a result of the constitutional changes which came into effect on 1st October, 1954, the post of Development Secretary, Nigeria Government, was abolished.

At the close of 1954, the membership was :—

Mr. A. H. Young, C.B.E. (*Chairman*).
Mr. H. B. Cox.

Cameroons Members :—

Mr. E. K. Martin, M.H.A.
Mr. S. T. Muna, M.H.A.
Galega II, Fon of Bali.
Mr. N. N. Mbile.

Overseas Members :—

Mr. W. J. C. Richards.
Mr. W. L. Bloomfield.
Mr. J. Findlay.

III. Meetings.

General Meetings of the Corporation were held as follows :—

20th April to 24th April, 1954.
17th and 18th August, 1954.
23rd and 24th November, 1954.

The Seventh Annual General Meeting, when the Report and Accounts for the year 1953 were accepted, was held at the Head Office at Bota on the 24th April, 1954.

A number of Sub-Committee Meetings and less formal consultations between Members of the Corporation readily available were held from time to time.

IV. Corporation Lands.

As anticipated in the Annual Report for 1953, the Sixth Agreement, the Deed of Variation relating to the adjustment of rents arising from land surrendered, was engrossed and executed.

Approval was given for the surrender of a plot of land in the Ombe Rein area to Government, who intend to develop it as an industrial site. Also a plot of land at Man O' War Bay is to be surrendered to Government for the extension of the Government Training Centre which has been established there.

V. Agricultural Activities.

The Corporation's agricultural policy was again concentrated on the development of the three main crops, Bananas, Rubber and Oil Palms. The Corporation approved the development of the Tole Tea Estate, and a start has been made on the first 100 acres.

A Research Division was established and a Laboratory opened at Ekona.

Detailed reports on the various crops are given below and summaries of crop acreages are given on page 27 of this report.

(i) *Bananas*.—1954 was noteworthy in that the answer was found for combating “Cigar End” disease, which had begun to take heavy toll of some of the best of the Corporation’s bananas, and details of this success are given more fully under “Research.”

Although the shipments from the Corporation’s Estates during the year were only 58,278 stems more than in 1953, the weight shipped was 2,461 tons greater. These export figures would have been even better, but for the hardening of the United Kingdom market during the last three months of the year and the Dock Strike in the U.K. which caused heavy losses in fruit which had been shipped but was not discharged until it had ripened and thus become useless. Shipping was also disorganised by the Strike, with the result that in November only seven shipments were made as against ten in 1953.

A proportion of the fruit which is rejected before shipment, so that the quality of the shipments will meet the market’s stricter requirements, is again being dried at Tiko, and a contract for the export of 60 tons of dried bananas was obtained.

The arrangement with the French Cameroons Authorities whereby during the dry season the fruit from the Tombel Estate is evacuated through French territory worked very satisfactorily, and, in October, the agreement was extended so that the French Authorities rail and lighter the fruit right through to Tiko, thus releasing Corporation craft for other duties. During the wet season when there was ample water in the Mungo River, the Corporation’s craft continued to evacuate fruit direct to Tiko.

The Corporation renewed its Agreement with the Bakweri Co-operative Union of Farmers and the sphere of the Union’s activities has been considerably extended to include an area round Kumba, some 65 miles from Tiko. The Corporation accepted some 80,000 stems for shipment, as against 33,623 stems in 1953. The membership also has grown during the year from 150 to 384.

Fertiliser experiments have revealed the necessity for Potash, in addition to Nitrogen, and during the second half of the year a compound fertiliser was applied to all second class banana lands. Further experiments on various soil types have been laid down, from which, in due course, valuable results are anticipated.

Panama Disease continued to make increasing inroads into the acreages under bananas, there being 932,717 cases reported as against 627,000 in 1953, and a further 1,689 acres had to be abandoned, making a total of 3,844 acres since 1951.

Windstorm damage amounted to 1,750,640 plants, which was 126,160 less than in 1953, but damage by elephants increased by 123,865 stems to 134,429. Numerous methods of prevention of the latter form of damage, other than shooting, which is restricted, have been tried without much success.

The whole of the exportable surplus of bananas in the Cameroons were marketed through Messrs. Elders & Fyffes Limited, under the terms of its Agreement.

(ii) *Oil Palm*.—For the eighth year in succession there has been an increase in the total annual production of palm oil and palm kernels. The production would have been higher had it been possible to bring the M'bonge plantation into production in time for the peak season.

In January the first shipment amounting to 340 tons of oil was made from the new Bulk Oil Storage Plant which was brought into use in November, 1953. From June to August inclusive, there were no oil shipments, due to lack of shipping allocation, and as a result of this the average F.F.A. percentage of the oil for the year was slightly higher than in 1953, being 3.63 per cent. at time of shipment, as against 3.57 per cent.

Arrangements are well in hand for the conversion of the Ekona Mill from electrical to steam drive, in view of the high cost of electricity which is more than it cost when the Corporation generated its own electricity. The Moliwe Mill was closed down in February and the M'bonge Mill was re-opened in May. The Bota Mill, where a second press and clay bath were brought into service during the first quarter of the year, operated satisfactorily.

During the year, 1,228 acres were planted in the Bota and Idenau areas, bringing the total of new and re-planting in all areas to date to 3,572 acres. Of this latter acreage, 294 acres (1950 planting) were brought into harvest in January and a further 147 acres (1951 planting) are due to come into harvest at the beginning of 1955.

Work on palm breeding continued satisfactorily and more than 150,000 seeds were planted. The seedlings have been generally healthy and no undue losses occurred as a result of disease. In addition, 10,000 Dura X Dura seeds were received from the Oil Palm Research Station at Benin in October and were planted in the Limbe Nursery.

(iii) *Rubber*.—In accordance with the Corporation's policy to replant some of the oldest and poorest yielding rubber, as well as to extend the acreage by new planting, approximately 945 acres of old rubber were cut out. Of that acreage, 406 acres were re-planted with bananas and the remainder planted with higher yielding strains of rubber. A total of 1,213 acres were developed under new or re-planting. As no rubber planting had been carried out in 1947, there were no new areas to be brought into tapping during the year.

Production during the year amounted to 1,595 tons, as against 1,800 in 1953. The reduction in crop is chiefly due to the abandonment of the acreage quoted above to bananas, and the replanting programme.

Improvements in the transportation and bulking of latex have contributed to the higher quality of rubber produced. At Mukonje the factory has been renovated and blanket crepe is also now being produced there on an old German macerator. This crepe was at first being smoke dried, but is now air dried. At Tiko a new crepe factory is in the course of completion and it is hoped that production will commence early in 1955.

The Visiting Agent carried out a tour of the Estates during the year and reported favourably.

(iv) *Cocoa*.—The rehabilitation of the 1,065 acres at Tombel continued throughout the year and the production amounted to 100 tons.

18 acres were planted but, due to the late arrival of seed, only 8 acres of the area planted survived. Approximately 1,300 seeds have been planted in the Nursery against the 1956 planting programme.

The incidence of Black Pod this year was very high, but, in addition to handpicking the diseased pods, spraying had a very marked effect in controlling this disease. The spraying is carried out on a three-week cycle by knapsack sprayers and also by a tractor-drawn "Mistblower": the latter covers about 300 acres per cycle, which is approximately three times the area covered by a hand spraying unit. In the spraying trials, considerable assistance has been afforded by Plant Protection Limited.

(v) *Pepper*.—The acreage under mature pepper increased to 17, due to 5 acres of immature pepper coming into bearing during the year. As a result of the increased acreage, the crop for the year was 13,692 lbs., compared with 5,709 lbs. in 1953. At the end of the year there were 27 acres of immature pepper, part of which should come into bearing in 1955, and the remainder in 1956.

A disease affecting the berries which was identified as "Black Berry" was found to respond to spraying with Bordeaux Mixture. As a result all mature pepper will in future be sprayed with a copper fungicide and it is hoped to prevent a repetition of the losses which have been caused to the crop now ripening.

Due to the high cost involved, drying by electricity has been discontinued and sun drying is proving both effective and economical.

(vi) *Tea*.—As forecast last year, a decision was taken to develop the Tole Tea Estate into a 700-acre Plantation over the next ten years: an experienced planter was engaged and work was commenced in July.

In order to ensure the supply of sufficient seed for this planting programme, 20 acres of old tea were prepared as a seed garden which is already producing sufficient seed to plant 100 acres. The remaining 32 acres of mature tea have been rehabilitated, and approximately 28 acres of young tea have been planted out. A decision regarding the erection of a factory will be taken during 1955.

(vii) *Research*.—The inception of a Research Division, with the appointment of a soil Scientist and a Plant Breeder, was described in the Annual Report of the Corporation for 1953.

During 1954, a Plant Pathologist was appointed to the Staff and the Laboratory was completed at Ekona, which is the headquarters of the Division.

As a result of investigations carried out by the Consulting Plant Pathologist and the Research Division, ably assisted by the Field Staff, it was possible to achieve, by the end of November, economic control of Cigar End disease in the Cameroons. The fungus diseases, *Trachysphaera fructigena* and *Stachyliidium theobromae* were identified, as also was the manner in which the fruit of the banana plant became infected. By deflowering the shooting bunches, the infection is prevented from reaching the fingers. This control measure, though simple in principle,

requires an elaborate and expensive organization of labour for its execution, and further research is necessary as to when to begin and when to discontinue deflowering and on the frequency of deflowering during the critical periods. However, the immediate effect has been to save the 1954-55 production in Ekona and to allow plans for expansion in this valuable banana area during 1955. The losses due to this disease were 238,055 stems as against 738,000 in 1953.

The banana fertilizer trials at Pungo in the Tiko area were continued. So far the results have shown significant increase in bunch weight from applications of potash, and further increases, though not significant, from the combination of nitrogen, phosphate and potash. These results have provided the basis for a provisional banana fertilizer programme for the Corporation.

Similar fertiliser trials have been laid down on bananas in the Ekona area and will be laid down at Tombel and Mbonge early in 1955.

Fertilizer trials have also been laid down on young Hevea rubber at Missellele, Ekona and Mukonje.

In September, 1954, six suckers of the Lacatan banana variety were introduced from Kew and successfully established at Ekona. This variety is highly resistant to Panama Disease, but in the West Indies it is very susceptible to the Leaf Spot Disease which in the British Cameroons normally does not seriously affect the Gros Michel variety. The accepted control against Leaf Spot Disease is regular spraying and it is possible that if the Lacatan variety was adopted by the Corporation, because of its resistance to Panama Disease, it might be necessary to spray to protect it against Leaf Spot Disease.

Sufficient Cavendish seed became available to plant out a compact plot of approximately two acres, which appeared to be doing well and was kept under close observation.

It has been decided that the banana breeding programme will be confined to the introduction and testing of new selections produced in the West Indies, and arrangements have been made for the quarantine of such material at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

In November, 1954, Professor Edelman of Wageningen University, Holland, paid a brief visit to the Corporation, and the Division had the opportunity of discussing with him the possibility of a soil survey and of hearing his views on the genesis and value of the various soil types occurring on the Corporation's lands.

(viii) *Buea Farms*.—Twenty-one Friesian-Montbelliard crossbred heifers calved during the year and the milking herd on the Farms increased to 92 animals, of which at the end of the year 76 were actually in-milk, producing a combined yield of over a hundred gallons a day. The total yield for the year was 27,299 gallons, giving an overall average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, per cow, per day. The Friesian-Montbelliard crossbred heifers that have come into milk, while not giving any spectacularly high yields, have in most cases shown an improvement on their dam's yield.

Pasteurizing equipment, incorporating a comparatively new commercial "In-bottle" process, has been installed in the Dairy and the production of fresh pasteurised milk for sale is being developed at the expense of butter making.

As it has been found impossible to produce pork for sale at economic prices due to the cost of foodstuffs, a decision has been taken to close down this side of the Farm's activities.

Vegetable production showed an increase over the two preceding years and amounted to 557 cwts.

(ix) *Timber*.—The year was marked by the first exports of logs by the Corporation when 221 tons of Obeche were shipped to the United Kingdom in September. The logs were rafted down the Mungo River for shipment from Tiko. During the rainy season rafts of logs were floated from Mukonje to Tiko for conversion at the saw-mill.

Further timber surveys were carried out, showing resources at approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ million cubic feet enumerated to date. Sawn timber production was stepped up by the erection of vertical frame saws at Tiko and Ekona Saw-mills. Large quantities of Obeche weather boarding for labour lines were sawn at Ekona Saw-mill and, to help meet the Corporation's hardwood requirements, pitsawing stations were built at Mukonje and Tombel.

To supplement the supply of timber at Tiko Saw-mill, a timber camp is in course of erection at Moliwe plantation. Logs will be evacuated from there by rail when a new branch line, now being laid, is completed.

Details of production were as follows :—

Logs	151,630 cub. ft.
Sawmill lumber	80,612 „ „
Pitsawn lumber	13,095 „ „
Logs shipped	421 tons.

VI. Production.

Comparative figures of production are as follows :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
<i>Bananas</i> —Total for British Cameroons :						
Production stems	5,676,039	4,803,782	5,953,543	6,178,209	6,732,560	7,631,804
Shipments „	5,137,600	4,680,419	5,773,208	5,746,946	5,893,294	5,666,901
<i>Cameroons Development Corporation Estates</i> :						
Production stems	3,226,723	2,760,188	3,868,756	3,880,487	4,059,181	5,346,336
Shipments „	2,927,539	2,666,775	3,609,906	3,743,801	3,846,585	3,904,863
<i>Dried Bananas</i> lbs.	112,224	28,252	573,216	523,595	278,264	49,700
<i>Palm Oil</i> tons	1,589	2,077	2,463	2,593	2,715	2,862
<i>Palm Kernels</i> „	666	1,157	1,265	1,576	1,712	1,739
<i>Rubber</i> „	925	1,324	1,606	1,559	1,800	1,595
<i>Cocoa</i> lbs.	255,770	194,040	186,480	181,920	181,600	223,580
<i>Pepper</i> „	4,943	2,260	3,360	5,824	5,709	13,692
<i>Butter</i> „	5,441	4,827	8,438	10,359	9,179	7,597
<i>Milk</i> gals.	19,238	15,272	24,870	30,086	26,482	27,299
<i>Timber (Shipments)</i> .. tons	—	—	—	—	—	421

VII. Joint Activities with Messrs. Elders & Fyffes Limited.

As in previous years the arrangements with Messrs. Elders and Fyffes Limited for the conduct of the joint railway and hospital activities continued successfully.

A new Railway Office and a Marshalling Yard were constructed at Tiko to facilitate the operation of the increasing traffic on this section of the railway system.

VIII. Engineering.

A. Civil.

(i) *Staff*.—Throughout the year technical staff was under strength, but the arrival of two Assistant Civil Engineers in September left the department with only one Civil Engineer and one Assistant Civil Engineer to be recruited.

(ii) *Housing*.—The following permanent houses were completed by the Engineering Division during 1954 :—

- 2 P.W.D. Type Houses, Bota ;
- 1 Senior Service House, M'bonge ;
- 2 Plantation Type Houses, Missellele ;
- 1 Arcon House at Idenau ;

whilst a further Plantation Type house is under construction at Tombel.

The following houses were completed by Messrs. Costains :—

- 3 Arcon Type Houses, Moliwe ;
- 1 1953 Type House, Moliwe ;
- 6 P.W.D. Type Houses, Tiko ;
- 4 Arcon Type Houses, Ekona ;

and the following houses are under construction :—

- 3 P.W.D. Type Houses, Ekona ;
- 1 Plantation Manager's House, Idenau ;
- 3 Plantation Type Houses, Idenau.

(iii) *Social, Educational and Welfare Buildings*.—Workers' Shops were constructed at Bakossi, Meanja and Missellele.

Community Halls were erected at Mukonje and Meanja and, at Ekona and Tiko the main buildings were commenced.

Plantation Schools were constructed at Tombel, Mukonje and Ekona, and the extension of the Bota School was commenced.

The swimming pool at the Tiko Club was completed, as was the new Club building at Ekona. A library was constructed at the Bota Club and the cost defrayed out of Club funds.

(iv) *Hospitals and Medical Buildings*.—The hospitals at Tombel and Ekona were completed and put into use. Work was unfortunately delayed on the M'bonge and Idenau projects, but these should be completed before the commencement of the rains in 1955.

The extension to the Cottage Hospital at Tiko was approximately 50 per cent. completed and it is hoped that it will be finished in March, 1955.

An Isolation Block and Nurses' Changing Room were constructed at Bota Hospital.

(v) *Factory and Workshop Buildings*.—A transit storage shed on Tiko Wharf was completed by Messrs. Costains and work commenced on a "Banana Elevator" Storage Shed in the same area.

An "Industrial Centre" was constructed at Middle Farm, Bota, comprising motor vehicle repair and maintenance depot, electrical workshops and refrigerator repair shops, Building Department workshops and joinery shop, and a mechanical workshop for the repair, overhaul

and maintenance of locomotives and carriages. An office for the Area Engineer was constructed in the same area. Preparations were well in hand for the commencement of the building of a new General Office at Bota, which will house all the main Divisional offices.

At Tiko a cement shed, which was in a dangerous condition, was demolished and rebuilt, whilst an old cement store was converted into a rubber crepe house and a crepeing battery installed. A Crepe Rubber Dry House was commenced and was 60 per cent. completed. This building is scheduled for commissioning in April, 1955.

A workshop and power house were constructed at M'bonge and a woodworking shop installed at Ekona.

At Buea Farms a milking bail and cattle dip were constructed.

(vi) *Plant Yard, Tiko*.—Plant yard buildings were constructed and a plant yard, following the usual contractor's system, was instituted at Tiko. This should show results in more efficient plant maintenance.

A Railway Office combined with an Area Engineering Office was constructed at Tiko, together with railway sidings for the marshalling of wagons.

The Multiple Frame Saw installation was completed at Ekona.

The Workshops for the Motor Transport Department at Moliwe were put in hand, and by the end of the year were practically complete apart from the hardstanding to the yard. A showroom for the display of vehicles was also completed at Moliwe.

A workshop was set up at M'bonge to assist in woodworking for the M'bonge labour lines.

(vii) *Labour Lines*.—800 rooms were constructed departmentally at various plantations during 1954, at an approximate cost of £100,000, whilst at Ekona, Messrs. Costains completed 3 Intermediate Staff Quarters, 21 Junior Staff Quarters and 16 Labour Line Rooms.

(viii) *Wharves*.—The Tiko Wharf was completed under contract and the first ship came alongside on the 2nd September, 1954. The railway track at present sits on the surface of the decking, but during the slack period of 1955 it is proposed to lay the track on flush sleepers and screed the Wharf to present a surface flush with the top of the tracks.

The Idenau Wharf was completed and cranes installed.

Sheet piling to the Mongossi Wharf was carried out over a length of 90 ft. and work is expected to be completed before the commencement of the rains in 1955.

The new sea wall at Bota, built in masonry to replace the original concrete wall, was completed during the year.

(ix) *Roads and Communications*.—Work was commenced on preparation of the abutments and piers for the Bibundi Bridge, which is being carried out on a lump sum contract. The bridge will consist of two 120-ft. spans, and the contractors (Messrs. Costains) have undertaken to complete the bridge by 31st July, 1955.

In October, heavy floods in the Idenau area caused the collapse of the suspension bridge over the Sanje River. Work was started on the replacement of the bridge by a single 120-ft. span.

(x) *Railways*.—A survey through very broken ground has been undertaken to ascertain the possibility of constructing a railway line from Mpundu to Tiko, which will enable bananas to be brought direct to the Wharf and which will save a considerable amount in transport costs and also enable fruit to be brought down in better condition. The relaying of several miles of the Bota railway with heavy gauge track was carried out by the Palms Division.

(xi) *Water Supplies*.—The new water supplies at Bota and Tiko worked very satisfactorily throughout the year and the supplies were extended to serve several of the labour camps in these areas. New water supply schemes at Bimbia and Moliwe were carried out and put into operation, whilst the Ekona scheme was nearing completion.

Schemes for the supply of water to Idenau and Mukonje were prepared and the materials ordered to enable work to commence early in 1955.

B. Mechanical Transport.

The Corporation's fleet of motor vehicles further increased, and by the end of the year there were 309 vehicles in operation. A start was made in replacing obsolete and old vehicles with current models. The workshop buildings at Bota and Tiko were completed during the year and equipped, and the maintenance and minor repairs of vehicles stationed in these two areas, as also at Ekona and Tombel, are now carried out locally, thus leaving the main workshops at Moliwe free to concentrate on major repairs and overhauls. The expansion of this latter workshop was continued and will be completed early in 1955.

Sales of vehicles and spares to the public also increased and reached £87,217, of which £64,839 was for the sale of 71 new vehicles.

C. Electrical Engineering.

The replacement of the old overhead system of distribution lines by an underground system was completed at Bota and Tiko during the year and an improved service was made available. Extensions were made at Ekona to the 3.3 kV system to bring power to the new residential site and the Research Laboratory.

An underground cable system was installed at Tiko Wharf, fed from a temporary sub-station. A modern system of fluorescent lighting was fitted on the Wharf to enable the fruit to be more closely inspected during night loadings.

The provision of a new central workshop at Middle Farm, Bota, has enabled closer supervision to be given to repair work. A notable feature has been the high quality of refrigerator maintenance now possible and complete re-conditioning and refinishing work is undertaken.

The radio-telephone network set up last year has proved its worth especially in outlying banana estates, where cutting programmes have been adjusted to last-minute shipping changes, thus saving quantities of fruit.

Internal telephone networks have been extended and improved by the addition of new equipment and direct communication is now possible by radio- or line-telephone between all sections and Head Office.

IX. Marine and Shipping.

The Corporation, as the Wharf Authority at Bota and Tiko, continued to handle through its Marine Division all cargo imported and exported from the territory together with the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers. The Corporation is Agent at these ports for Elder Dempster Lines Limited and Palm Line Limited.

After Tiko Wharf had been closed to shipping for seven months during the year, handling of ships alongside was resumed on the 1st September, by which date the principal construction work on the main Wharf was completed. During the period when Tiko Wharf was closed, 1,822,994 stems, representing the exports of all Cameroons banana producers, and which would normally have been loaded alongside, were lightered to vessels in the Pool ; and other cargo, which would also have been handled alongside, was dealt with in a similar manner.

Vessels continue to be handled in Tiko Pool when the Wharf is occupied, all cargo being handled in Corporation lighters, as at Bota.

Delivery was taken during the year of two shallow draught twin screw towing launches and four shallow draught river lighters and the Corporation fleet of motor-driven and dumb craft was made up at the year's end as follows :—

Single screw seagoing tugs	..	..	4
Single screw motor lighters	..	..	8
Twin screw river towing launches	..	..	6
Single screw river towing launches	..	..	10
Seagoing dumb barges	..	..	14
River dumb barges	..	..	30
Lifesaving craft	..	..	4
Total	..	..	76

In addition to being used for the handling of main line vessels and for lighterage of bananas, these craft provide a service between 19 Wharves, other than Bota and Tiko, and over 16,500 tons of cargo was lightered between these Wharves during the year.

In 1954, 82 ships were handled at Tiko, and 166 at Bota.

A summary of trade at Bota and Tiko Ports is set out at the end of this section, and from this it will be seen that cargo handlings in 1954 exceeded those for 1953 by 18,032 tons, besides constituting the highest for any year so far.

2,025,304 stems of Corporation fruit were transported in lighters from plantation to shipment port during the year, representing some 51·3 per cent. of the Corporation's total banana shipments.

The Marine Workshops at Bota dealt with many major refits and routine maintenance and slippings of coastal craft and a portion of the Nigerian Marine Dockyard at Victoria, including the slipway there, continued to be leased from Government. Major refits of inland water craft were dealt with at Small Beach, Tiko, whilst routine slippings and maintenance of these was carried out on the slipways adjacent to Tiko Wharf.

SUMMARY OF TRADE AT BOTA AND TIKO PORTS 1948—1954 INCLUSIVE.

PORT	INWARD CARGO	OUTWARD CARGO (excluding bananas)	CREEK SAILINGS (excluding bananas)	BANANAS EXPORTED	PASSENGERS		VE- HICLES	BAGS OF MAIL
					SAL- OON	DECK		
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Stems				
BOTA	27,396	10,812	8,008	} 5,666,901	446	3,608	133	5,937
TIKO	18,438	1,492	8,764		481	685	148	1,212
TOTAL								
1954	45,834	12,304	16,772	5,666,901	927	4,293	281	7,149
TOTAL								
1953	35,528	11,347	10,003	5,893,294	968	5,311	245	7,863
TOTAL								
1952	41,995	11,617	13,565	5,746,946	1,017	6,885	310	6,555
TOTAL								
1951	32,423	8,213	12,535	5,773,208	704	7,761	187	6,134
TOTAL								
1950	28,459	8,508	13,502	4,680,419	530	6,556	195	4,929
TOTAL								
1949	21,193	7,774	6,825	5,137,600	877	3,896	187	3,560
TOTAL								
1948	13,273	5,262	9,598	4,078,408	599	6,828	143	3,178

X. Staff and Labour.

(i) *Establishment*.—There was an increase in the strength of the staff and of the labour force during the year and the position on the 31st December, 1954, was as follows :—

Senior Service	220
Intermediate Service	36
Junior Services, including employees on	
Monthly Agreements	1,141
General Labour Force	25,030

Recruitment of Senior Service Staff was continued in order to maintain an establishment adequate to deal with the increased development and expansions in the various ancillary services. Further promotions from the Intermediate Service to the Senior Service were made during the year, one employee being promoted to Field Assistant and a second to Marine Assistant. It is the Corporation's policy to promote the maximum number of employees to responsible positions when they are able to show by qualifications and experience that they can accept the additional responsibility. There are now three non-expatriate Medical Officers on the staff of the Corporation and it is anticipated that two non-expatriate Nursing Sisters will join the service of the Corporation early in 1955. Employees promoted to the Intermediate Service during

1953, were considered after their first year's probation and their appointments were confirmed. The number of staff in the Intermediate Service increased by ten, and the Selection Committee will be interviewing further candidates early in 1955. Forty-seven promotions and 104 appointments were made to the Junior Service or to positions subject to monthly agreement during the year.

(ii) *Wages and Conditions of Service*.—No major alterations were made in the rates of pay during the year following the agreement between the Workers' Union and the Corporation which was reached in 1952, and resulted in an upward revision of salaries. The Corporation has continued to subsidise certain foodstuffs which were sold direct to employees through the Corporation's plantations. The activities of the Commercial Superintendent have continued to ensure a steady supply of foodstuffs being brought into the Corporation's estates, and this has contributed to a large degree in the stabilising of market prices in the surrounding markets.

Discussions are taking place between the Personnel Division and the Workers' Union with a view to revising the existing salary structure on the basis of the present rates. This is considered necessary in order to simplify the present structure and to indicate to all employees what their promotional avenues are.

(iii) *Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union*.—The relationship between the Workers' Union and the Management continued to be an amicable one and consultations have taken place at regular intervals. A Consultative Committee, consisting of Heads of five Divisions, has met the Union at quarterly intervals and has proved a useful medium for the exchange of views and ensured a large measure of goodwill and understanding by both Management and Labour on the various problems that arise. Individual cases numbering 92, were dealt with by direct negotiations between representatives of the Union and the Personnel Division. Some of the subjects dealt with by the Consultative Committee during the year were :—

- (a) Leave Travelling Expenses.
- (b) Repatriation Expenses.
- (c) Housing Accommodation.
- (d) Revision of Salary Structure.
- (e) Establishments.
- (f) Trade Testing.
- (g) Training Schemes.
- (h) Redundancy.
- (i) Rates of Pay—Individual.

The experiment which was commenced in August, 1953, whereby three Area Consultative Committees were set up, has proved to be successful. Local matters are being settled more speedily and the relationships between Heads of Sections and local Trade Union Officers have been strengthened.

(iv) *Senior Service Staff Committee*.—The Senior Service Staff Committee met on a number of occasions during the year and made recommendations and suggestions with regard to conditions of service at a meeting held with the Sub-Committee of the Corporation.

(v) *Housing*.—Progress continued to be made in the provision of new and improved housing for all grades of the Corporation's staff, details of which are set out under the Section of the Report dealing with Engineering.

(vi) *Workers' Shops*.—Sales amounting to £138,976 showed an increase of £6,576 on the previous year, which was less than anticipated. This was partly due to the Dock Strike in England causing goods to be delayed.

Three new shops were opened, at Moque, Mambanda and M'bonge Palms. These have proved to be of very good service to the local population. The number of shops now in operation is twenty-one.

The service provided by these shops, the standard of which continues to improve, is now an essential part of the Corporation's activities, and has a very steady effect on the local market prices and cost of living generally.

(vii) *Provident Fund*.—All members of the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Service, as well as many Monthly Paid employees for whom membership is voluntary, were members of the Corporation's Provident Fund, all members of the Fund contributing a minimum of 10 per cent. of their salaries, up to a maximum of 15 per cent. The Corporation contributes to the Fund 15 per cent. of the salaries of each of the members. At the close of 1954, there were 1,009 members of the Fund, the market value of the Fund's investments being £248,980 8s. 2d.

(viii) *Retiring Gratuities*.—Employees who are not members of the Provident Fund, but who have served the Corporation for a minimum of five years' continuous service, are considered for the award of a retiring gratuity when the employee retires as a result of old age or infirmity. During the year 531 gratuities, amounting to £12,018 5s. 1d. were approved. This is an increase of 29 cases and £1,445 9s. 8d. on the awards approved in the previous year. In addition to the gratuities for service with the Corporation, *ex gratia* payments are available to employees in respect of their service on the plantations prior to the formation of the Corporation. Payments to 420 employees amounting to £3,282 2s. 4d. were authorised during the year. This is a decrease of 19 cases and £243 0s. 7d. as compared with 1953.

XI. Welfare and Social Services.

(i) *Recreation*.—Spare time recreational activities for employees continued to expand and with the addition of two further trophies for football and athletics, competition was keen, particularly at Inter-Area functions.

The Corporation is well represented on all the major sports committees where there is outside representation, and in the newly constituted Cameroons Amateur Football Association, and the Cameroons Regional Amateur Athletic Association, Corporation sportsmen play a big part.

Six selected teams will be representing the Corporation in the newly inaugurated "Commissioner's Cup" to be played for in 1955; and the Tiko Area Eleven reached the final of the United Africa Company Cup, which game will be played in the New Year.

Eight Corporation players were in the team when, in their first representative game, the Cameroons Amateur Football Association XI defeated a Fernando Po XI by five goals to one.

The Corporation has thirty-one playing fields which cater for most Camps.

With the improved track facilities, the standard of athletics continued to improve and, in the 1954 Championships, five new records were achieved, and it is hoped that the Corporation's athletes will make a good showing in the Cameroons Regional Championships in 1955.

Boxing tournaments continued to be popular and the standard of ring craft, as well as sportsmanship of the contestants, reflected well on their instructors.

A successful Festival of Tribal Dancing was held towards the end of the year, in which thirty-four competing groups, representing nineteen different tribes, took part. Preliminary shows were held in the outside areas and the final was held at Bota in the evening under floodlights.

The popularity of Table Tennis is increasing in all areas, where standard size tables are now available.

(ii) *Film Unit*.—During the year, the principle of giving shows at the smaller and more remote camps was continued, where necessary alternating such shows from month to month with those at the more populous centres. Unfortunately, owing to greatly deteriorated road conditions, it was not possible to send a unit to M'bonge and Tombel during the greater part of the prolonged wet season.

A total of 671 shows was given to an estimated audience of 209,000 on the Corporation's Estates, and 164 shows, with an estimated audience of 53,000 was given on Messrs. Elders & Fyffes' Estates. Colour films of the Royal Tour of H.M. The Queen were acquired and shown as soon as available in all areas. "High Life" dances, for which amplified music is provided, were still as popular as ever, and 65 dances were held at the various outstations, in addition to those given with the use of static equipment provided at the main centres.

As the result of a Government decision that cinema shows given in the camps were subject to censorship regulations, the Cameroons Film Censorship Board was constituted, and the Corporation's Films Officer, Welfare Officer and Assistant Personnel Officer, were appointed as members to that Board, and all films shown in the camps are now viewed by a censorship Committee.

The staff engaged in the repair and maintenance of electronic equipment continue to make satisfactory progress and it has been possible to undertake the repair of cinema projectors and amplifiers, etc., on a repayment basis, for commercial organisations operating in Nigeria and the Cameroons.

The Photographic Developing and Printing section continued working to capacity except for a seasonal decline during the rains. Requests from other Divisions of the Corporation for progress and record photographs of various projects increased considerably, and there were also requests from Government and commercial undertakings for the services of a photographer which the unit was able to supply.

(iii) *Woman's Welfare*.—It is pleasing to record that during the year a highly successful experiment was made in running an advanced sewing class under the tuition of the wife of a Senior Service employee. From this experience it was found that an equally high standard of craftsmanship could be found amongst the illiterate as well as the literate women. The dresses and household articles made at the class compared well with European standards of workmanship.

(iv) *Markets*.—The Food Supply Assistant and suitable transport continued to be based at Kumba. During the rains, and due to bad roads, it was difficult to obtain sufficient supplies from the usual sources but alternative arrangements were made and there was very little complaint of shortage.

(v) *News Sheet*.—The Welfare News Letter continued to be published and circulated fortnightly to all areas and was appreciated by employees who themselves have taken to sending in small articles of information for publication.

“Planters’ Punch” has become a well established publication and is now clothed in a coloured cover and on this a series of caricatures of members of the staff is appearing.

(vi) *Welfare Expenditure*.—The Corporation’s recurrent expenditure on welfare and social services during 1954 was £66,197. In addition, capital expenditure on schools, community halls, etc., exceeded £29,000, including work in progress.

XII. Education.

(i) *Primary Education*.—In 1954, new schools were opened at Ekona, Mambanda-Mukonje and Ebubu-Tombel. The Corporation now owns and manages eight schools, two of which, Bota and Tiko respectively, have double “streams.”

Two schools, Bota and Idenau, have now built up to the full four-year Junior Primary course. It has been decided to add Senior Primary departments to these schools, and the first Senior Primary standards will begin next year.

All four of the schools owned by the Corporation and managed by Missions have now completed the four class-rooms needed for Junior Primary schools, and they will all have pupils ready for education to the Fourth Year in 1955.

More than 750 children were enrolled at the end of the year in the schools owned and managed by the Corporation as compared with about 500 in the preceding year. It is anticipated that the enrolment figures in 1955 are likely to be over 1,100. About 450 children were enrolled in schools owned by the Corporation but managed by Missions. Finally about 2,300 children eligible for Primary education at Corporation expense, have their fees paid in non-Corporation schools, making a total number of children receiving Primary education at Corporation expense of 3,500.

During the year free meals were provided for the pupils of Tiko school, in addition to the meals already provided at Bota, Idenau, Mabeta and Matute. Thus all the schools established in 1952 and 1953 now provide meals.

**FURTHER ILLUSTRATIONS
OF
ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS
ON THE
CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION'S
ESTATES.**



TIKO WHARF—" BEFORE ".



TIKO WHARF—" AFTER ".



BANANA LOADING AT TIKO WHARF.



BANANA LOADING AT TIKO WHARF.



TIMBER SHIPMENT.



STOWAGE OF TIMBER.



COCOA SPRAYING.



DEFLOWERING—CIGAR END DISEASE.



SCHOOLS—HANDWASHING BEFORE MEALS.



SCHOOLS—FREE MEALS.



LOADING PRODUCE--BOTA WHARF.



ATHLETICS AT MIDDLE FARM, BOTA.

The staffing of the Corporation's Primary Schools is very satisfactory, in that of 26 teachers employed by the Corporation, 21 have received professional training, or over 80 per cent. of all the teachers.

(ii) *Scholarships*.—For the past few years the Corporation has provided £5,000 annually for the award of scholarships for Cameroonians pursuing courses of higher education. During 1954 five scholarships were awarded, of which only three were taken up, making a total of 31 scholarships awarded and finally accepted since the commencement of the scheme. Where suitable training facilities exist in West Africa, the students are sent to these local institutions in preference to institutions in the United Kingdom. Following this principle, 15 students have been sent to institutions in Nigeria, 10 to the United Kingdom, 5 to the Gold Coast and 3 to Sierra Leone.

The awards are confined, where possible, to students of medicine, nursing, accountancy, engineering, commerce and, in particular, agriculture, all of which are subjects of considerable value in the development of the Cameroons. Some difficulty has been met in obtaining suitable applicants for the award of scholarships in agriculture.

Scholarships granted so far cover the following subjects :—

Science	7	Economics ..	2
Education	7	Domestic Science ..	2
Arts	3	Agriculture ..	1
Commerce	3	Local Government	1
Medicine	2	Dentistry	1
Nursing	2		

During the year 33 children of employees of the Corporation were receiving Secondary education at Corporation expense, and 15 new scholarships to Secondary schools were awarded before the end of the year. A total of 53 children have so far been awarded secondary school education and 23 children of employees were having fees paid for technical education at Secondary level at the Government Trade Centre at Ombe, Victoria.

Three men who have been employed by the Corporation for not less than two years and were therefore eligible for a scholarship for higher education or for further training of a more technical nature, were granted scholarships for further training. To date, further training has been offered to 23 employees, as follows :—

Government Trade Centre, Ombe ..	5
Pharmacy	7
Teacher Training	6
Sanitary	2
Accountancy	1
Agricultural Chemistry	1
Science	1

(iii) *Adult Education*.—Evening literacy classes were held three times per week in three grades, those reaching the top grade being allowed to take an examination prior to the award of literacy certificates. During the course of the year there were approximately 1,100 employees regularly attending 164 classes at 70 centres, supervised by 5 full-time Adult

Education Organisers, all of whom were trained teachers. In four of the more isolated plantations, this work was supervised by the Headmasters of Corporation schools.

Classes in English and Arithmetic are also held for employees who have completed the Senior Primary school course, mainly office workers, leading to the Elementary Examinations of the Royal Society of Arts. 37 candidates from classes at Buea, Bota and Tiko, sat these examinations in July. One purpose of these classes is to improve the general education of employees prior to admitting them to a more advanced technical course in book-keeping, office routine or typing. These more advanced courses, leading to the Intermediate Stage Examinations of the Royal Society of Arts, are now established at Bota and Tiko, and are also shortly to begin at Ekona.

Technical part-time classes for carpenters, electrical engineers and mechanical engineers have also been started at Tiko, Bota and Idenau respectively.

All these latter classes are tutored by Senior Service volunteers.

(iv) *Library Facilities*.—18 Library Boxes, each containing approximately 70 books, to suit employees at varying educational levels are circulated on the Corporation estates and reading rooms are provided in the main centres.

XIII. Medical and Health Services.

The year 1954 saw much evidence of advance in the Medical Division. There were many additions to the various Hospitals. Bota Hospital was improved by the construction of Nurses' Changing Rooms and an Isolation Block. Tiko had the Administrative Block in the General Hospital completely rebuilt and an extension started at the Cottage Hospital, including a much required Isolation Ward. Ekona saw the erection of a new female ward of twenty beds and the conversion of the old female ward, a relic of the German days, to Kitchen, Laundry and Nurses' Changing Room, and a new Administrative and Out-patient Block, which includes an Operating Theatre. At Mukonje permanent quarters were provided for the staff. A new Auxiliary Hospital was opened in Tombel and a temporary camp was established for students in the Preliminary Training School at Tiko.

The Senior Service staff was increased by the recruitment of two qualified African Doctors, one of whom, a native of Bali, is the first Cameroonian to qualify as a Doctor in the United Kingdom. It was thus possible to appoint an additional Doctor to Bota and, for the first time, a Corporation Medical Officer to Mukonje. Three expatriate Sisters were recruited to replace resignations and two indigenous Nursing Sisters, who have trained and qualified in the United Kingdom, will be taking up their appointments with the Corporation early in 1955.

Due to resignations, the establishment of Pharmacists was under strength, and unfortunately the Government Service was unable to second a Pharmacist. A replacement expatriate Inspecting Pharmacist and

Storekeeper was recruited and took up his appointment at the end of the year.

The Sister Tutor and two Sisters were employed full time on the training of nursing staff and the efficiency of this section of the Medical Services is reflected in the fact that eighteen out of twenty students passed the Preliminary Examination of the Nursing Council for Nigeria.

The M'bonge Estates remained under the clinical care of the United Africa Company's Medical Officer at Lobe and in return for those services, the United Africa Company's Estate at Bwenga were medically supervised by the Corporation's Medical staff at Tiko.

The Corporation's Estates are divided for medical purposes into four areas—Bota, Ekona, Tiko and Mukonje—and the total staff and their families at risk total, approximately 50,000. Of these, some 400 are Senior Service employees and their families.

The Corporation's Hospitals and ancillary institutions available, are as follows :—

<i>Bota Area :</i>	Bota General Hospital with 91 beds and 6 cots. Idenau Auxiliary Hospital with 8 beds. 10 Aid Posts.
<i>Ekona Area :</i>	Ekona General Hospital with 60 beds. 7 Aid Posts.
<i>Mukonje Area :</i>	Mukonje General Hospital with 35 beds. Tombel Auxiliary Hospital with 16 beds. M'bonge Auxiliary Hospital with 10 beds. 12 Aid Posts.
<i>Tiko Area :</i>	Tiko General Hospital with 193 beds and 10 cots. Cottage Hospital with 12 beds. Missellele Auxiliary Hospital with 25 beds. Dwenga Estate Hospital with 8 beds. 17 Aid Posts.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENTS.

	Out-patients		In-patients	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bota General Hospital	18,332	4,874	1,840	1,091
Tiko General Hospital	13,247	2,096	3,303	1,090
Cottage Hospital	795	366	61	50
Ekona General Hospital	13,887	11,128	1,392	564
Mukonje General Hospital	6,641	2,110	652	187
Idenau Auxiliary Hospital	26,838	2,561	193	18
M'bonge Auxiliary Hospital	921	804	47	4
Tombel Auxiliary Hospital	8,106	819	323	18
Missellele Auxiliary Hospital	12,113	363	408	40

The numbers treated at Aid Posts in the different areas were as follows :—

Tiko Area : Cameroons Development Corporation 42,828 with 253,282 attendances.

Elders & Fyffes Ltd.—23,306 with 78,083 attendances.

Bota Area : 25,749 with 71,498 attendances.

Ekona Area : 16,181 with 58,722 attendances.

Mukonje Area (including Tombel and M'bonge) : 17,158 with 50,852 attendances.

All four areas are now undertaking their full share of operations, though the majority are still carried out at Tiko. During the year 62 major, 550 intermediate and 1,631 minor operations were performed. Hernia still accounts for a high proportion of these operations, but the effects of the strict medical examinations now in force at the time of recruitment are evident in the greatly reduced waiting list for hernia operations. 14,976 applicants for employment were examined during the year, of which number 1,412 were rejected, mainly for either hernia or gross skin conditions.

The main diseases which were treated in the hospitals were lung diseases and diseases of the gastro intestinal tract. There were many cases of pyrexia but few of these were frank malaria, a tribute to the efficacy of the routine spraying campaign which is now carried out in all camps, though in some of the outlying areas, the regularity of this control is hampered by bad road communications. Much research has still to be done with the origins of the many virus diseases prevalent in the Cameroons.

A survey was made of the streams which breed *Simulium damnosum*. This insect is the vector of *Onchocerciasis* which probably is the cause of more minor illnesses and inconvenience than all other diseases put together. Its late effects can be very serious and many invalidings are due to this cause. Supplies of Crystalline D.D.T. have been obtained, and at the first suitable opportunity in 1955, the Corporation will commence operations to attempt to eradicate the vector from the main areas in the Victoria Division, and it is hoped the treatment will be effective for many years, if not permanently.

A notable feature this year has been the reduction in the number of cases of Tropical Ulcer. This has been evident in all areas and is probably due to two main factors, better feeding by the employees and the growing use of footwear.

There were no cases of Small-Pox during the year. 29,248 vaccinations were carried out by Corporation staff. A new method of vaccination was introduced which gives more effective results and fewer ulcerated arms. Fear of vaccinations is now much less than it formerly was.

The laboratory at Tiko has functioned well during the year. The specimens submitted to the laboratory at Tiko consisted of 686 of blood, 183 of urine, 237 stools, 195 smears, 326 sputa, 103 skin scrapings. This does not include the work done in the smaller laboratories attached to the other hospitals or to routine ward examination.

The investigation into the feeding habits amongst the labour, started in 1953, was continued, and from the information available the most striking point is the manner in which normal diets have improved over the last few years.

Recurrent expenditure for medical services was £113,978, and contributions of £15,937 were received from other estates using the services of the Corporation's Medical Division. Capital Expenditure during 1954 was £24,219, which includes work in progress.

XIV. Finance.

The Corporation gave full consideration to the Report of the Mission organised by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and its recommendations in respect of the Corporation's finances, but found that the Corporation's Ordinance on which the Corporation's policy was based, had proved entirely satisfactory and was serving the purpose for which it was designed and thus needed no amendment such as the Mission had suggested.

In view of the heavy commitments involved in the Corporation's Capital Development programmes, the Corporation decided to invoke its borrowing powers up to its maximum of £2,500,000 and negotiations were opened up with the Government of Nigeria to implement this decision.

XV. Accounts for the Year 1954.

During 1949 a general principle was established, after consultation with the Governor of Nigeria and the Colonial Office, that in the absence of any real capital it was desirable to dispose of the cost of Capital Expenditure in the early life of the Corporation. It was decided at that time that all new assets created by the Corporation and attached to leasehold lands, which assets could not be pledged, should be written off in full as far as possible out of revenue in the year in which they were created, and that machinery, factory equipment and similar assets should be written off in five equal instalments over five years. In 1952, however, a decision was taken that as the rate of capital expenditure had increased considerably and was likely to be sustained for two or three years, it was necessary to revise the procedure whilst retaining the general principle. In accordance with that decision, buildings and constructions were written down by $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. instead of writing them off completely in the year of completion; other methods of writing off remaining as hitherto.

In 1953, capital expenditure on buildings and constructions exceeded that for 1952, and the same percentage was used for writing down these assets. In 1954 similar capital expenditure exceeded that for 1953 and $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. was again used but it will be appreciated that the total amount written off buildings and constructions in 1954 consisted of a third of the expenditure of each of the years 1952, 1953 and 1954.

As stated earlier in this report, windstorms caused the loss of approximately 813,000 stems of bananas and approximately 937,640 banana plants. It is estimated that if the stems which were lost had been allowed to reach maturity and had been shipped, the Corporation would have received for them proceeds amounting to £482,600. Of the plants

which were lost it is considered that had they been allowed to reach maturity one quarter should have borne fruit which could have been shipped before the end of 1954, and that these shipments would have realised £107,800. The total loss of potential revenue from bananas due to hurricanes is computed to be £590,400.

The Dock Strike in the United Kingdom in the latter part of 1954 resulted in the delay in the discharge of three shipments of green bananas. As a result, when ultimately discharged, the majority of the fruit proved to be unsaleable and it is estimated that the Corporation lost £83,000 in revenue in respect of these shipments.

The total potential banana revenue lost from these two causes is estimated to be £673,400. The Corporation decided to transfer £100,000 from the Reserve in accordance with Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946, which contains a provision for hurricane risks, to the Profit and Loss Account. The costs incurred by the Corporation in the upkeep of the banana plants and the stems which were lost and the costs of harvesting, carriage to shipside, freight and insurance, etc., on the fruit lost as a result of the Dock Strike have been absorbed in the normal operations of the Corporation.

The final results as shown in the Accounts are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Working Profit	1,105,256	17	10
Less : Depreciation	1,032,659	13	7
	72,597	4	3
Transferred from Reserve under Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946	100,000	0	0
	172,597	4	3
Transferred from Reserve for Deferred Maintenance	110	5	11
	172,707	10	2
Transferred to Reserve for Retiring Gratuities ..	15,896	1	3
	156,811	8	11
Provision for 1955/56 Income Tax Assessment ..	140,450	0	0
	16,361	8	11
Add : Excess Provision for 1953/54 Income Tax Assessment	2,843	4	0
Final surplus	£19,204	12	11

The final surplus will be remitted to the Governor-General for expenditure by him for the benefit of the peoples of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship in accordance with Section 19 of the Cameroons Development Corporation Ordinance of 1946.

The Members of the Corporation record their appreciation of the services rendered by the staff at all levels and by the labour force which has been so essential to the progress made. The Corporation also desires to record its appreciation of the assistance and advice provided by many Government Departments and Government Officers.

(Signed) A. H. YOUNG, *Chairman.*

W. J. C. RICHARDS, *Member.*

S. T. MUNA, *Member.*

GALEGA II, *Member.*

J. FINDLAY, *Member.*

W. L. BLOOMFIELD, *Member.*

N. N. MBILE, *Member.*

E. K. MARTIN, *Member.*

A. C. WOOD, *Secretary.*

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Analysis of Employees by Tribes, as at 31st December, 1954.

<i>Tribe or Locality.</i>	<i>No. Employed.</i>	<i>Tribe or Locality.</i>	<i>No. Employed.</i>
Bakweri	1,798	Brought forward	11,842
Mungo	7	Bambuan	156
Bafaw	89	Bamboko	45
Bakossi	405	Bowan	—
Bakundu	82	Balum	3
Basossi	79	Babaji	153
Balong	34	Ndop	143
Bakoki	4	Bajum	35
Banyangi	1,433	Ngemba	303
Nguti	33	Bikom	336
Keaka	645	Ngwandi	248
Mbo	202	Mbonge	63
Nfotum	22	Ngolo Batanga	504
Bangaw	265	Bambui	113
Bafum	337	Bawang	135
Bafukum	243	Bafangi	95
Bali	630	Batanga	19
Bamenda	553	Boa	10
Bamessi	186	Balue	226
Bamenta	1,071	Inguni	302
Bamengi	620	Esu	324
Baku Kong	24	Mentah	115
Bengli	22	Munguni	68
Kimbo	66	Mbulang	11
Babanki	311	Banjang	19
Bafut	820	Banyemi	71
Kaka	20	Baba	3
Babag	26	Baruti	1
Banso	156	Banna	23
Bandi	126	Buki	82
Balita	2	Bamubu	27
Eoow	—	Kurumanta	201
Mandom	49	Sonni	6
Balondo	515	Bamuko	43
Baumbo	26	Bako	4
Bali Kambi	113	Nsongli	134
Wum	556	Ngali	14
Baso	206	Nkap	24
Bafo	13	Wee	210
Mukab	53	Dum	58
Carried forward	11,842	Njinikom	31
			16,200
		French Cameroons	1,582
		Nigerians & others	7,248
			25,030
		TOTAL	25,030

ACREAGE STATISTICS, DECEMBER, 1954—PRINCIPAL CROPS

(All areas are excluded which are not in active cultivation or harvesting)

BANANAS (ACRES)

	Mature	Planted 1954	Total	Preparation for 1955 planting
Tiko Area	7,470	1,016	8,486	1,020
Bota/West Coast Area ..	4,653	207	4,860	210
Ekona Area	5,506	796	6,302	395
Tombel Area	1,973	350	2,323	400
Meme/Boa Areas	2,610	465	3,075	—
Total	22,212	2,834	25,046	2,025 (a)

(a) Includes 805 acres Replanting.

RUBBER (ACRES)

	Mature	Immature	Total	Preparation for 1955 planting
Tiko/Missellele Areas ..	4,840	2,157	6,997	600
Moliwe Area	1,472	—	1,472	—
Ekona Area	1,014	1,628	2,642	90
Mukonje Area	2,521	2,434	4,955	607
Total	9,847	6,219	16,066	1,297 (b)

(b) Includes 607 acres Replanting.

OIL PALMS (ACRES)

	Mature	Immature	Total	Preparation for 1955 planting
Bota/West Coast Area ..	9,692	3,278	12,970	1,350
Ekona Area	2,269	—	2,269	—
M'bonge	1,135	—	1,135	—
Ikassa	1,149	—	1,149	—
Total	14,245	3,278	17,523	1,350 (c)

(c) Includes 900 acres Replanting.

COCOA (ACRES)

	Mature	Immature	Total	Preparation for 1955 Planting
Tombel	1,065	8	1,073	10

CAMEROONS DEVELOP

(Incorporated under Nigerian

BALANCE SHEET AS

31.12.1953

£	LIABILITIES.	£	£
	RESERVE in accordance with Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946:—		
	For Hospitals, Dispensaries, Medical Equipment, Educational Facilities, Port Facilities, Rehousing, Replanting, Hurricane Risks, Marine Craft and Motor Transport ..	600,000	
	Less : Transfer to Profit and Loss Account in respect of part of the losses arising from the Hurricanes and U.K. Dock Strike 1954	100,000	
600,000			500,000
	RESERVE for Retiring Gratuities to Workers not Members of Provident Fund	100,000	
	Less : Payments during year	15,896	
		84,104	
	Add : Transfer from Profit and Loss Account ..	15,896	
100,000			100,000
	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE:—		
	Wharves, Other Constructions, Railways, Plant, Machinery and Equipment	46,195	
	Less : Expenditure during year	46,085	
		110	
	Less : Transferred to Profit and Loss Account ..	110	
46,195			—
	LOANS (unsecured, repayable by instalments):—		
	Government of Nigeria (final instalment 6th December, 1970)	500,000	
	Government of Nigeria (final instalment 31st July, 1969)	500,000	
	Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd. (final instalment 29th May, 1961)	350,000	
1,100,000			1,350,000
	CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS:—		
	Trade Creditors, Wages and Other Expenses	390,987	
	Leave and Passages	50,000	
	Income Tax:—		
	1954/55 Assessment	£93,578	
	Provision for 1955/56 Assessment	140,450	
		234,028	
657,634			675,015
	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT:—		
60,285	Unappropriated Balance		19,205
£2,564,114		Carried forward ..	£2,644,220

MENT CORPORATION.

Ordinance No. 39 of 1946.)

AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

1.12.1953			£	£	£
£	ASSETS.		Cost to 31.12.1953	Additions during 1954	Cost to 31.12.1954
	IMPROVEMENTS TO LEASEHOLD				
	CONCESSIONS :—				
	Plantations—				
	New Development	603,463	207,360	810,823	
	Buildings and Constructions	1,525,731	705,431	2,231,162	
	Roads	101,452	42,093	143,545	
	Rail Track	18,451	26,103	44,554	
	Furniture and Equipment	132,258	23,729	155,987	
		2,381,355	1,004,716	3,386,071	
	EQUIPMENT :—				
	Plant and Machinery	353,242	50,387	403,629	
	Railway Rolling Stock	146,475	10,723	157,198	
	Marine Craft	213,436	27,475	240,911	
		3,094,508	1,093,301	4,187,809	
	Less : Written off to 31.12.1953 :				
	Improvements to Concessions	1,819,775			
	Equipment	412,595		2,232,370	
	Written off for year 1954 :				
	Improvements to Concessions	883,733			
	Equipment	119,291	1,003,024	3,235,394	
862,138					952,415
	MOTOR VEHICLES :—				
	Cost to 31st December, 1953	192,400			
	Add : Additions during year	23,113			
		215,513			
	Less : Cost of Vehicles Retired	4,385		211,128	
	Less : Written off to 31st December, 1953	152,831			
	Written off for 1954	29,636			
		182,467			
	Less : Depreciation on Retired Vehicles	4,282		178,185	
39,569					32,943
	WORK IN PROGRESS (at cost) :—				
	Planting		26,757		
	Buildings and Constructions		311,279		
	Roads and Rail Track		9,706		
	Furniture and Equipment		15,771		
	Maintenance and Repairs		15,809		
	Sundries		985		
459,987					380,307
£1,361,694	Carried forward				£1,365,665

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Incorporated under Nigerian Law)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st December 1954

31.12.1953

£

2,564,114

£

Brought forward ..

2,644,220

NOTE.—The total estimated amount of Commitments for Capital Expenditure at 31st December, 1954, was £855,000

A. H. YOUNG, *Chairman.*S. T. MUNA
E. K. MARTIN } *Members.*H. R. CLEAVER, *Chief Accountant.*

£2,564,114

£2,644,220

AUDITORS

In accordance with Section 17 of the Cameroons Development Corporation Ordinance 1946, we report that the incorporated Returns from the various areas comprising the Corporation's Concessions.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and in our opinion the Balance Sheet and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books and records of the Corporation.

LAGOS, NIGERIA.

20th April, 1955.

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT

(Incorporated under Nigerian Law)

Dr.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR

31.12.1953

£		£	£
1,404,827	To Upkeep of Mature Areas and Production, Ancillary Services, Administration		1,358,521
	„ Medical Services	113,978	
	Less : Contributions by other Plantation Companies ..	15,937	
82,435			98,041
64,166	„ Welfare and Social Services		66,197
1,235,196	„ Balance carried down		1,118,741
<u>£2,786,624</u>			<u>£2,641,500</u>
	To Expenses of Head Office :—		
	Remuneration of Chairman and Members	3,660	
	Staff, Travelling and General Office Expenses ..	13,842	
16,110			17,502
19,667	„ Agency and Service Fees		3,000
1,738	„ Consultants Fees and Expenses		1,245
	„ Concession Rent :—		
	The Governor General of Nigeria	41,035	
	Less : Allocated to Plantations, etc.	21,984	
5,947			19,051
900	„ Audit Fee and Expenses		1,534
	„ Depreciation :—		
	Improvements to Leasehold Concessions	883,733	
	Equipment	119,291	
	Motor Vehicles	29,636	
888,396			1,032,660
46,864	„ Loan Interest		53,614
345,915	„ Balance		72,597
<u>£1,325,537</u>			<u>£1,201,207</u>
	To Balance Unappropriated 1953 paid to the Governor-General of Nigeria		60,285
51,108	„ Provision for Income Tax 1955/56 Assessment ..		140,450
190,000	„ Transfer to Reserve for Retiring Gratuities ..		15,896
9,219	„ Transfer to Reserve in accordance with Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946		—
90,000	„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet		19,205
60,285			
<u>£400,612</u>			<u>£235,836</u>

MENT CORPORATION.

(Ordinance No. 39 of 1946.)

THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

Cr.

31.12.1953

£		£	£
	By Revenue from Plantations:—		
	Bananas	2,056,404	
	Palm Products	282,307	
	Rubber	275,605	
	Cocoa	17,636	
	Pepper	2,398	
	Timber	7,150	
2,786,624			2,641,500
<u>£2,786,624</u>			<u>£2,641,500</u>

1,235,196	„ Balance brought down	1,118,741
58,824	„ Agency Earnings and Commission	61,128
31,517	„ Miscellaneous Receipts and Adjustments	21,338

<u>£1,325,537</u>	<u>£1,201,207</u>
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345,915	By Balance brought down	72,597
51,108	„ Balance per last Account	60,285
3,589	„ Income Tax Excess Provision 1954/55 written back ..	2,844
—	„ Transfer from Reserve for Deferred Maintenance ..	110
—	„ Transfer from Reserve in accordance with Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946 in respect of part of the losses arising from Hurricanes and the U.K. Dock Strike 1954	100,000
<u>£400,612</u>		<u>£235,836</u>

